



State Arts Resources Rural Outreach Program: Overview of FY2017-18

These grants are designed to support arts outreach efforts by State Arts Resources organizations that extend their programming outside their home county through partnerships with arts and community organizations and schools in [Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties](#).

Context

State Arts Resources (SAR) organizations are among our state's strongest arts providers, modeling quality programs and serving at least a regional area. Many SARs currently take their programs and services outside of their home counties, reaching audiences in less-populated areas. This grant program supports new and ongoing initiatives by SARs that provide substantive arts programming to [Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties](#), sharing the work of these exemplary organizations with all the citizens of North Carolina.

The benefits of this program can be seen in a number of ways, including:

- Providing direct exposure to high quality arts programs for audiences with limited access
- Bringing new educational experiences and substantive learning opportunities for students through programs in schools
- Drawing audiences from beyond the target counties to some performances and public programming, generating economic activity

Grant Guidelines

Grants are awarded to State Arts Resources organizations that serve Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties with strong artistic and educational programming in schools or the community. Successful proposals demonstrate appropriate partnerships with local organizations, identify target audiences and articulate clear benefits, and exhibit thoughtful planning and evaluation.

Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Grant funds may be used for artist fees, interpretive materials, travel expenses, contractual fees, marketing, and other costs related to the outreach project. Directly related staff costs are also eligible. Grant expenses must be matched one to one with related project costs; SAR operating grant funds cannot be part of the match.

Funding decisions are made using the following criteria:

- Artistic quality of the programs
- Scope of impact and benefit of the programs to the audiences, participants, and broader community in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties.
- Inclusiveness of racially, culturally, and economically diverse participants as appropriate to the programs
- Strength of planning and partnerships

First Round of Funded Projects

A panel chaired by an Arts Council board member and comprised of arts professionals met on November 13 to discuss and evaluate the applications. The panel recommended the following nine proposals that received the highest ratings to the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources, who approved them on November 28, 2017.

Cape Fear Regional Theatre

\$5,176

This grant supports the theater's Artist on the Go program by taking writing workshops and performances of Crowns into three high schools in Harnett (Tier 2) and Robeson (Tier 1) counties.

Children's Theatre of Charlotte

\$11,449

Children's Theatre has an established Resident Touring program, which brings productions to schools and community centers to many counties in the state and beyond. This grant supports an expansion into three new Tier 1 counties: Edgecombe; Halifax; and Yadkin.

Cucalorus Film Foundation

\$5,100

Cucalorus proposes to organize the inaugural Lumbee Film Festival in Pembroke in Robeson County (Tier 1), focusing on cinematic work by Lumbees and other Native American filmmakers.

Davner Theatricals/Burning Coal Theater Company

\$15,000

This grant will support a traveling production of To Kill a Mockingbird, which will be presented in middle and high schools in five Tier 1 northeastern counties: Bertie; Halifax; Hertford; Northampton; and Warren. In addition, Burning Coal will host free weekend community workshops on topics such as public speaking and sustainable careers in the arts.

Elsewhere

\$5,000

Elsewhere will take its residency center model into neighboring Rockingham County (Tier 2) for a five-day program with area artists during which lead artist Ian Gamble and collaborators will create a mobile public artwork. Activities will be scheduled to coincide with the county's bicentennial celebration.

North Carolina Stage Company

\$7,270

NC Stage will tour a production of Shakespeare to schools and community organizations in Mitchell and Yancey counties (both Tier 1) and present workshops as pre- or post-activities.

Penland School of Crafts

\$11,500

Penland will work with the smART Kinston Foundation to set up an artist residency program and provide educational opportunities for middle school students, community college students, and other artists in Lenoir County (Tier 2).

Triad Stage

\$5,375

This grant will support Tell Your Story, a five-session arts integration residency that will take place in all sixth grade English classes in Person County (Tier 1).

Western Piedmont Symphony

\$9,130

Western Piedmont Symphony will expand its In-School Education Concerts series to include additional performance opportunities in Burke (Tier 2) and Caldwell (Tier 1) county schools, featuring the Tesla Quartet, its resident string quartet, and the WP Chamber Orchestra.